However, in the State of Assam, the electors whose citizenship is either doubtful or disputed, their cases are referred to the appropriate authorities for determining their citizenship status. Their names are, however, not deleted from the electoral roll but they are not allowed to cast the vote till their cases are favourably disposed off by the appropriate authorities. These electors are called 'D' voters and letter 'D' is marked against their entries in the electoral rolls to identify them.

Constitution of Delimitation Commission

1520. SHRI SILVIUS CONDPAN: Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Delimitation Commission has already been constituted for delimitation of Parliamentary and Assembly constituencies in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) whether there is any proposal to increase the number of Parliamentary and Assembly constituencies for SCs/STs communities?

THE MINISTER OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI H.R. BHARDWAJ): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The Delimitation Commission was constituted under section 3 of the Delimitation Act, 2002 on 12th July, 2002 for the delimitation of all Parliamentary Constituencies and the Assembly Constituencies except in the State of Jammu and Kashmir. Section 4 of the said Act, *inter alia,* provides that the Delimitation Commission will be responsible for readjustment of the division of each State into territorial constituencies for the purpose of elections to the House of the People and to the State Legislative Assemblies on the basis of the census figure as ascertained at the census held in the year 2001.

(c) No, Sir. There is no proposal to increase the seats reserved for the Scheduled Castes and the Scheduled Tribes. It may, however, be noted that according to the relevant provisions of the Constitution and the Delimitation Act, 2002, the Parliamentary and Assembly Constituencies reserved for the Scheduled Castes and the Scheduled Tribes may increase or decrease depending purely on the ratio of the Scheduled

Castes and the Scheduled Tribes population to the population of each State/Union Territory as determined on the basis of 2001 Census.

Growth in mineral sector

1521. SHRIMATI KAMLA MANHAR:
SHRI DHARAM PAL SABHARWAL:
SHRI RAJU PARMAR:

Will the Minister of MINES be pleased to state:

(a) whether national mineral sector has recorded a positive growth in 2004-05 according to the latest data available with Government;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether inspite of robust growth in mineral sector, Government have not come out with any mineral policy so far; and

(d) if so, the reasons therefor and whether Government would take initiative to formulate a mineral policy shortly?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF MINES (DR. DASARI NARAYANA RAO): (a) and (b) As per the information furnished by Indian Bureau of Mines (IBM), a subordinate office under the administrative control of Ministry of Mines, the index of mineral production of all mineral excluding atomic minerals has shown a positive growth rate of 4.47% during 2004-05.

(c) and (d) The Government has already announced its National Mineral Policy for non-fuel and non-atomic minerals in 1993 and it is still in operation.

Offshore exploitation of mineral resources

1522. SHRI S.P.M. SYED KHAN: Will the Minister of MINES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have made any legislation for exploitation of mineral resources in the offshore areas;

(b) if so, details thereof including the action taken following the new legislation; and